

[52433/682]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Masakazu SUGIMOTO, et al.
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date Herewith
Title JOINING STRUCTURE

419
12-10-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the title:

--(Amended) JOINING STRUCTURE --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, and 6-8 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

10. (New) A joining structure according to claim 2, characterized by bending one or both ends of each tabular member to the extent that each bent end is formed at a right angle to the direction of the principal stress.
11. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein the structural member has a coupling flange or a base plate, and one or more tabular members are disposed between the structural member and the coupling flange or base plate.
12. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein each tabular member serves as a fixture for one or more members to be joined.
13. (New) A joining structure according to claim 1, wherein a tabular member serves as a fixture for a secondary member.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Versions with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: FEB 25, 2002

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10070353-022502